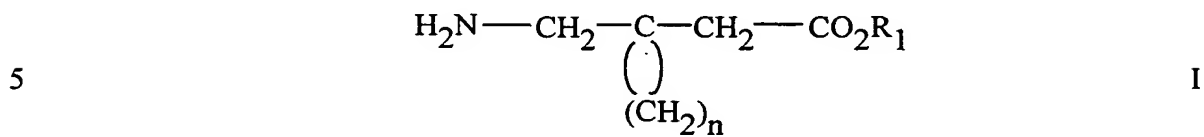


ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method of preventing or treating cartilage damage by administering a GABA analog such as, for example, a compound of Formula



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R₁ is hydrogen or straight or branched lower alkyl, and n is an integer of from 4 to 6.